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November 30, 2011

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Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No.3)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Nomination of Mr. Charles L. Elsea, Surface Transportation Board, RSTAC small shipper vacancy

On behalf of The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), our organization respectfully nominates Charles L. Elsea to fill the small shipper vacancy on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC). Mr. Elsea is willing to serve as a member of RSTAC for a three-year term.

Mr. Elsea is Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors of The Scoular Company, a privately-held marketer of agricultural products. Scoular manages supply chain risk in worldwide feed, food, and renewable fuel markets by buying, selling, storing, handling, and transporting grain and feed and food ingredients.

As the Secretary of Transportation for the State of Kansas the last nine years, it has been my pleasure to work with Charles L. Elsea on numerous transportation issues in the State of Kansas. Mr. Elsea has been a tremendous asset to me, KDOT and the state of Kansas as a member of the Highway Advisory Commission for the last 9 years. Mr. Elsea has provided a wealth of information on how rail transportation of grain works not only in Kansas, but on a regional, national, and international scale as well. Mr. Elsea's passion and vision for transportation has provided me insight on how we address the general transportation needs of Kansas and specifically the Kansas grain shipper.

In this time period, Mr. Elsea and Scoular Grain have expanded their unit train facilities from one location in Salina to four additional unit loading facilities. Mr. Elsea understands the importance of reliable and efficient freight rail transportation for the movement of not only grain products but other products as well.

Scoular, like other small shippers in agribusiness, depends on the U.S. railway system to efficiently transport its products, relying heavily on both covered hopper cars and intermodal containers. With more than 30 years of experience in the grain industry, Mr. Elsea has extensive working knowledge of rail operations and is keenly aware of the issues that are of importance to shippers and both Class I and shortline rail carriers.

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In addition to his responsibilities with Scoular, Mr. Elsea is a member of the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and presently serves on NGFA's Arbitration Appeals committee. As stated earlier, Mr. Elsea has served as a commissioner on the Highway Advisory Commission for KDOT for nine years and served as a member of KDOT's Strategic Planning Task Force in previous years. Mr. Elsea is a past Chairman and past member of the Board of Directors of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Transportation, Elevator, and Grain Merchants Association (TEGMA). He previously served on the Kansas Governor's Agricultural Advisory Board.

Mr. Elsea is a graduate of Kansas State University's College of Agriculture. Following graduation, Mr. Elsea worked in grain marketing for The Pillsbury Company. In 1981, Mr. Elsea joined The Scoular Company's Kansas City office as a grain merchandiser. Over the years, Mr. Elsea worked in a variety of Scoular locations in various positions of increasing responsibility, merchandising or managing the merchandising of domestic and export feed grains and wheat. From 2000 to 2007, Mr. Elsea was Senior Vice President responsible for the company's Flour Mill Markets Division, and it was during this time that he played an instrumental role in developing Scoular's shuttle train network. He was named CEO in 2009.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deb Miller', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Deb Miller
Secretary of Transportation